



Phoenix Advice Teaching your dog the recall

www.phoenixasso.com

This information was produced by Phoenix's recommended Canine Behaviour Specialist, [Polly-Anne Lloyd](#).

For more advice, or to contact Polly-Anne, please visit her website at <http://www.dog-shrink.com/>

What Is The Recall?

Puppies usually like to be with you. If you reward a pup every time he comes to you, the chances are he will have a good recall later on.

Adult dogs are a different story. They will come to you if they think it is rewarding. You have to make it so. Added to that, you need to get a recall when there are distractors around.

First step.

Use a long line of about 10m (rope, washing line, horse lunge rein etc) Let him wander about. Every time you call him and he doesn't come, tug on the rope and if necessary reel him in. If using one, click and treat (C+T). Praise him when he gets to you, even if you had to reel him in. Make a great fuss, or play a short game of tug or ball. Repeat ad infinitum. Start in the least distracting environment first and build up to harder places.

Say "Rupert come" or whatever in an animated and exciting voice. ONLY EVER SAY IT ONCE then tug if necessary.

GOLDEN RULE Never call him if you think he won't come. You are setting yourself up for failure. So in the house, call him. Maybe in the garden or wherever. Other times either keep him on a long line or don't call him at all. If you can't be sure he'll come, don't do it.

Maybe use a whistle. It's more piercing than your voice.

Make coming to you great fun. Run backwards, use a squeaky toy, bounce a ball, whatever he likes to do. Keep him close enough so he can see and hear you. Later on he can be given a longer rope, or you can try off lead if you are almost positive he'll come.

Adding the wait

Put the dog in sit or down. Tell him wait. Use a hand signal. Swivel backwards in front of him. Take a couple of steps backwards. Call him and C+T.

If he moves, go back to him. Put him back in position and try again. Make the distance shorter till he gets it.

Do short sessions. End on a success. Start the next session slightly easier than how you ended the last one. For example, if last time you built up to 10 seconds of wait, start this one on 5 seconds and then increase it if it goes well.

Making it harder

ONLY DO ONE AT A TIME

Move backwards further

Move away from him in a normal way, stop, turn and face him. Call and C+T

Make him wait longer. Increase by a couple of seconds

Remember, increase the time in wait and the distance from him separately. Don't ask too much too soon.

Take off the lead (only when you are confident he will wait and come)

Change the environment:

Start indoors, move to the terrace or garden, move outside the property etc. Do this in stages. When you move to a new place, go back to the long line (if you have been doing it without) go less far away and ask for less time in wait. In other words, go back to the beginning.

You will see him progress much faster now as he knows the drill.

If he fails at a recall twice, make it easier.

Don't forget to make the treats more tasty when you go into a harder environment.

Do it in sit, down and stand.

Add distractors whilst he is waiting, such as someone walking past, someone running past, another dog near, another dog walking past, someone bouncing a ball around him (yes it can be done with a lot of practice!)

Start asking for a sit when he comes to you before the C+T

Ask for a "finish" - that is he moves from in front round you to heel position.

Call him to you past a trail of temptations (toys or treats) - this is advanced, don't try it now you will be disappointed!

C+T

C+T every time he comes to you then fade it out rewarding on a RANDOM number. Other times just praise him.

About Phoenix

Phoenix Association is a registered French charity that exists with the sole aim of dealing with the sad plight of the ever-increasing number of animals in need in and around the Dordogne.

We take in abused and abandoned animals, nurturing them in our voluntary network of foster homes and then placing them in loving, permanent homes. We work with maximum care and attention with a small number of animals at a time.

Phoenix is not state-funded, so in order for us to continue our work, we rely upon donations to fund our veterinary, fostering and re-homing costs. Every donation that we receive, however large or small, goes towards helping animals in desperate need.

Please visit our website to find out more about our animals available for adoption, foster caring, how to donate, how to join as a Member, and much more.

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